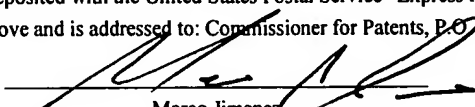


**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY "EXPRESS MAIL"**

Express Mail Label No.: EV147810318US

Date of Deposit: July 7, 2003

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313.

  
Marco Jimenez

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In the application of:

Jun OZAWA, et al

Serial No.: Unknown

Filing Date: Concurrently Herewith

For: VACUUM PROCESS SYSTEM

Examiner: Not Assigned

Group Art Unit: Not Assigned

Parent Serial No. 09/856,411

Parent Filing Date: May 17, 2001

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Mail Stop Patent Application  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313

Dear Sir:

The Applicants respectfully request entry and consideration of the following Amendment before fees are calculated for the above-identified continuation patent application and before examination on the merits commences.

The present application claims priority to Japanese Patent Application No. 10-343596 filed on November 17, 1998 and Japanese Patent Application No. 10-369138 filed on December 25, 1998. All papers and documents required to make the claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f) were submitted in the international application number PCT/JP99/06408 (International Publication No. WO 00/30156), from which the prior application was a national stage.